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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child

Statement submitted by Rotary International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* E/CN.6/2007/1.

Statement

Rotary's 1.2 million members in 168 countries are actively working to meet the goals of the 51st Commission on the Status of Women. Rotary clubs worldwide develop projects that help prevent discrimination and violence against the girl child.

Rotary clubs support and empower women in their communities by providing access to economic and social development through education, literacy, numeracy, information technology and job training programs. Rotary also offers equal access to its clubs, projects, youth exchange, scholarships, and group study exchange programs.

Rotary works to create a world where everyone has access to safety, economic independence and education. Rotary clubs on every continent create projects that benefit all people, especially women and girls.

Rotary clubs, as well as Rotaract (ages 18-30) and Interact (ages 14-18) clubs, in all parts of the world develop projects that promote gender equality. These projects work to provide shelter, education, and resources that enrich the lives of women and children.

For example:

- Rotary clubs in Accra-Labone, Ghana, Uganda and Ojai, California, United States of America, have combined resources to create a refuge and vocational training center for girls living on the street in Accra. They have also implemented a program to help the girls start baking or catering businesses.
- In the wake of the December 2004 tsunami in South Asia, Rotary members in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland created the Rotary Education on Wheels program to supply girls in Tamilnadu, south India with bicycles so they can attend school.
- A Rotary member in Washington, D.C., United States of America, obtained a US\$50,000 Matching Grant from The Rotary Foundation to provide a water well, furniture, and computer equipment for a school to educate young Maasai women in Kenya.

These Rotary projects are among many that encourage and develop greater self-sufficiency for the girl child.

Rotary will continue to encourage its members to develop projects to address the needs of women in their communities, and to provide women with access to education, economic and social development and healthcare. Rotary works to ensure that its programs and projects truly benefit all the world's citizens.